

# IEEE SIGHT

Special Interest Group on  
Humanitarian Technology

## NEWSLETTER

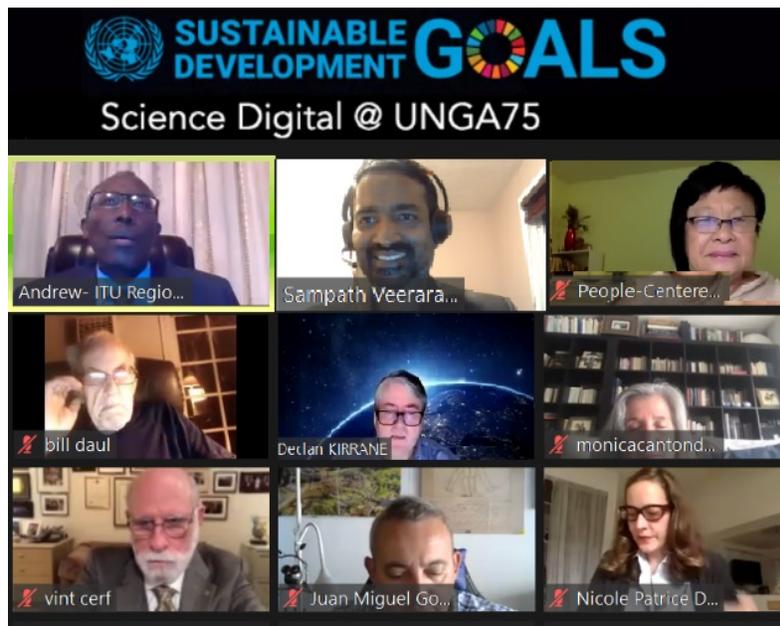
October 2020

### Note from the Chair



Dear IEEE SIGHT volunteers,

SIGHT has had a vibrant month in October, with a lot of (virtual) activities! I'll use this opportunity to let you know what we have been doing as a Steering Committee and staff team.



I was thrilled to join the Science Digital virtual conference organized as part of the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations (UN). I shared about ways in which the UN and its Agencies could partner with the IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) & IEEE SIGHT to address major challenges in the sustainable development space. The ideas were well-received, and we are looking forward to continued engagement in 2021. Additionally, SIGHT continues to engage with IEEE Society partners, industrial players, and others to discuss strategies for joint initiatives during the rest of 2020 and in 2021. Facing the challenges that have surfaced due to the pandemic has not been easy, but doing so in collaboration with others can help ensure success.

I'm looking forward to participating in the HAC & SIGHT Panel at the **Global Humanitarian Technology Conference** (GHTC) that will cover key strategic changes in our Projects programs due to COVID-19, and share success stories and personal experiences from Committee members. I'm also participating in a session co-hosted with IEEE Students on **IEEE Humanitarian Engineering Programs**. I'll be sure to share the recording with you in next month's newsletter. On 16 November, I will be holding an Ask the Chair session to talk about what SIGHT has achieved in 2020, and the direction for both HAC and SIGHT in 2021. Be sure to **register** and join the conversation! I always like to hear from individual members and answer any questions they may have.

SIGHT membership is now over 10,400 strong, demonstrating that the program is sustaining its momentum from last year despite the global pandemic. We are really looking forward to ending the year with the highest membership since inception. Furthermore, this year HAC & SIGHT Projects have received 263 proposals, with the majority submitted as a response to COVID-19. This is an 87% increase in proposals received in comparison with 2019. So far, 74 of the proposals have been awarded funding, and we are reviewing another 70+ in the coming month. **The HAC website** will periodically be updated with new information as decisions are made. I also want to extend a warm welcome to the six recently formed SIGHT Groups

(see below)! We look forward to working with you in all the endeavors to impact your local communities.

I invite you to continue reading this newsletter for information on the **2020 SIGHT Awards**, and encourage you to nominate someone for the **SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award**! We look forward to recognizing our volunteers during this year's upcoming global **SIGHT Week celebration**. SIGHT Week will be held from 29 November - 06 December. In the coming weeks, we will send out a separate email to share the events and activities we have planned for you.

Before 15 November, be sure to submit your application for the **2021 SIGHT Steering Committee and Subcommittees** (see section below for more details). Speaking from personal experience, joining the volunteer leadership team is a wonderful opportunity to develop leadership skills, learn from others, provide guidance in your area of expertise, and connect with the global SIGHT community.

This year has been an amazing journey so far, and once again we expect to set new records in terms of membership, proposals received and funded, and volunteers engaged. To me, these are not just numbers to serve as future benchmarks, but rather each one represents a story of how IEEE, HAC, and SIGHT are making a difference around the world. I am very thankful for all the volunteers and staff team that has made this possible. I look forward to sharing more key highlights in subsequent newsletters.

Best wishes,  
Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan  
*2019 - 2020 IEEE SIGHT Steering Committee Chair*

## Major Highlights

### Apply to Join the SIGHT Steering Committee

SIGHT is looking for passionate volunteers eager to contribute to its mission of partnering with underserved communities and local organizations to leverage technology for sustainable development. Whether you have volunteered with SIGHT before, or are a new individual member, you are invited to submit an **application for the 2021 SIGHT Steering Committee and Subcommittees**. Don't miss this opportunity to work with a team of amazing leaders to support over 10,000 SIGHT volunteers implementing technological solutions and making a difference all over the world. Be sure to submit your application before the deadline of 15 November 2020.

### 2020 IEEE SIGHT Awards



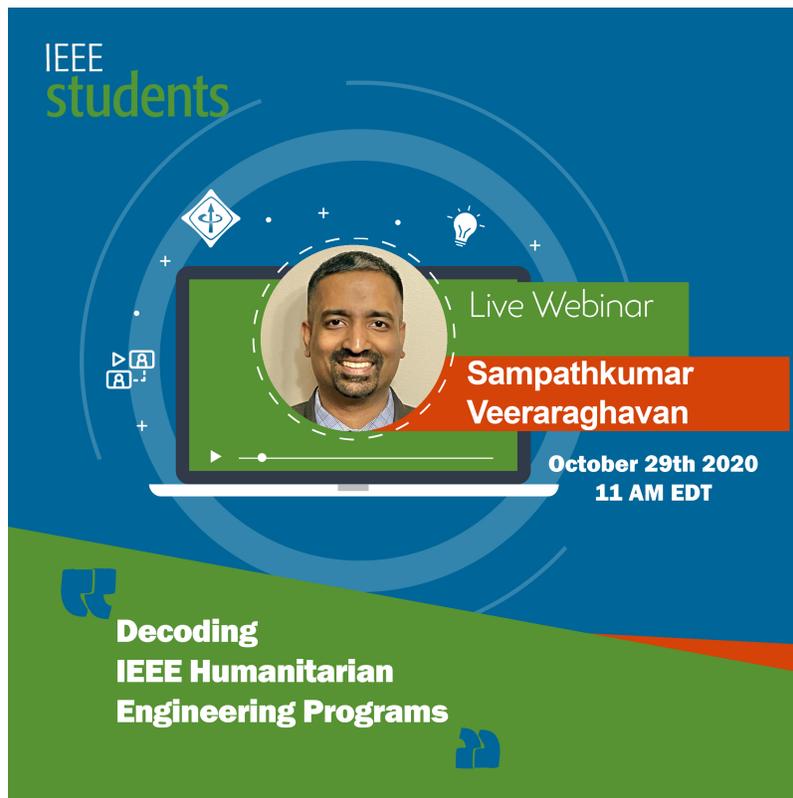
The SIGHT Steering Committee (SSC) will once again be recognizing individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to IEEE SIGHT and a local underserved community with a SIGHT Award. Have you worked with a SIGHT volunteer who is committed to furthering the SIGHT mission? **Nominate** them for the SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award by **15 November!** Self-nominations are permitted.

The SIGHT Group of the Year Award recipient will be selected based upon the information received in the annual Group Report (see the following section). SIGHT Group Chairs must also have completed the HAC/SIGHT Impact Survey sent on 19 October to be considered for the SIGHT Group of the Year.

## 2020 Annual SIGHT Group Report

Upon formation, each IEEE SIGHT group agrees to submit an annual report of its activities to remain in good standing. SIGHT group Chairs will be receiving an email from IEEE Strategic Research (Josephine Russo) with a link to the report in November.

## “Decoding IEEE Humanitarian Engineering Programs” on IEEE.tv



IEEE SIGHT and **IEEE Students** will be hosting a session on IEEE.tv on 29 October at 11:00am EDT on popular IEEE humanitarian and sustainable development programs like SIGHT and EPICS. SIGHT Chair Sampath will share best practices in designing and delivering technology-based Humanitarian programs, and there will be a student panel where members will share their experiences working on humanitarian projects through their IEEE membership.

**Registration** is open until the session begins, but as the date coincides with our newsletter delivery, we will also be sending a link to the recording of the session next month.

## **HAC & SIGHT Panel at the IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC)**

Kartik Kulkarni (2019-2020 HAC Chair), Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan (2019-2020 SIGHT Chair and 2021 HAC Chair), John Funso (HAC Partnerships Chair), and Pia Torres (HAC Project Support and Oversight Ad Hoc Chair) are the panelists for the session on 31 October that will address how IEEE HAC & SIGHT responded to the COVID pandemic. The GHTC Organizing Committee is offering free access to Plenary Sessions (see their announcement [here](#)) or **register** to attend the entire conference.

**Article by SIGHT Chair Published in TechForge's AI News**

SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan wrote an article that has been published in TechForge's AI News. You can read the insightful piece, "How can AI-powered humanitarian engineering tackle the biggest threats facing our planet?" [here](#).

## IEEE & SIGHT Membership Renewal



Renew your SIGHT membership when **you renew your IEEE membership**. Visit the membership renewal site to see opportunities to explore an online interactive catalog of 2021 offerings and customize your renewal. Individual SIGHT members can also download the IEEE SIGHT membership certificate in the **Collabratec portal**.

## SIGHT Group Spotlight

### Newly-formed SIGHT Group - Welcome to the SIGHT Community!

- Manipal Institute of Technology SIGHT- India, Region 10
- Universidad Nacional San Antonio Abad del Cusco SIGHT - Peru, Region 9
- College of Engineering - Karunagappally SIGHT - India, Region 10
- Univ Federal do Recôncavo da Bahia-UFRB SIGHT - Brazil, Region 9
- Universidad del Pacifico SIGHT - Peru, Region 9
- New Zealand North Section SIGHT - New Zealand, Region 10

## Get Involved - Join The Community

### Important Dates & Upcoming Virtual Events

- 29 October - “**Decoding IEEE Humanitarian Engineering Programs**” hosted by IEEE Students and IEEE SIGHT on IEEE.tv
- 29 October - 1 November - **IEEE Global Humanitarian Technology Conference**
- 31 October - **HAC & SIGHT Panel on COVID-19** at the **Global Humanitarian Technology Conference (GHTC)**
- 15 November - Deadline to submit an **application for the 2021 SIGHT Steering Committee and Subcommittees**
- 15 November - Deadline to submit a nomination for the **2020 SIGHT Volunteer of the Year Award**
- 16 November - **Ask the Chair session** with SIGHT Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan
- 29 November - 06 December - **SIGHT Week celebration** including Giving Tuesday with the IEEE Foundation on 01 December

Visit the SIGHT **calendar** to learn about more upcoming HAC & SIGHT humanitarian technology events and activities (all virtual for the time being).

## Support IEEE SIGHT

**Donating to IEEE SIGHT** through the IEEE Foundation means that you help provide a way for SIGHT to meet the needs of more IEEE volunteers, engage members through meaningful projects, and affect long-lasting impact in communities in need of technological solutions to development challenges. Funds donated at this time can be used to provide crucial financial support to COVID-19 related projects being conducted all over the world by IEEE members.

## Become a SIGHT Member

Add SIGHT to your IEEE membership - it's free and open to non-members as well. Benefits include the monthly newsletter, first notice of HAC & SIGHT funding opportunities, and increased connectivity with the SIGHT Steering Committee, staff, and volunteer network.

SIGHT MEMBERSHIP

## Join a SIGHT Group

Professional and university SIGHT groups around the globe are partnering with communities and local organizations to work together on sustainable development projects - **find your closest group!** If a SIGHT group does not exist in your area, visit the **SIGHT Toolkit** to learn how to create a new one.

JOIN A GROUP

## Want More? Visit Our Website!

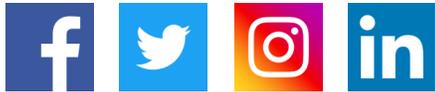
**SIGHT's website** is the place to find case studies, testimonials, **our blog**, and **learning resources** like **webinars** on sustainable development and project management.

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## Connect With Us

Please let us know what you would like to read about in upcoming SIGHT newsletters. Send your suggestions and ideas to [sight@ieee.org](mailto:sight@ieee.org).

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